

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4905
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY BAMAKO
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L RABAT 1728

EO 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: MR SS OAU PBOR MO
SUBJECT: MOROCCAN FOREIGN MINISTRY VIEWS ON PROSPECTS
FOR OAU SAHARA SUMMIT

REF A. NOUAKCHOTT 744, B. RABAT 1261

1. ACCORDING TO NEWLY APPOINTED MFA DIRECTOR FOR AFRICAN
AND ASIAN AFFAIRS, MOHAMED HALIM, WHO ATTENDED RECENT
TRIPOLI OAU MEETINGS, THERE MIGHT WELL BE EFFORTS TO CONVENE
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SPECIAL OAU SAHARA SUMMIT BETWEEN NOW AND REGULAR SUMMIT
SCHEDULED FOR JULY IN KHARTOUM. HOWEVER, HE DID NOT FORESEE
AGREEMENT ON HOLDING OF SPECIAL SUMMIT SOON, IN VIEW OF
CONTINUING PROBLEMS CONCERNING (A) FINANCING, (B) CONDITION
THAT QUORUM OF CHIEFS OF STATE OR GOVERNMENT BE PRESENT,
(C) NEED FOR AGREED AGENDA, AND (D) QUESTION OF SAHARAN
ATTENDANCE. HE ALSO DID NOT EXPECT SPECIAL SUMMIT TO BE

ADDED ONTO REGULAR JULY SUMMIT. FOR ONE THING, IN HIS VIEW, THE NECESSARY HIGH-LEVEL QUORUM UNLIKELY TO BE ATTAINED IN KHARTOUM. WHILE SUCH A QUORUM WAS NOT IN OAU RULES, IT WAS AN IMPORTANT CONDITION IF SAHARA MEETING WAS TO BE TAKEN SERIOUSLY. REGULAR SUMMIT ITSELF COULD CONCEIVABLY TOUCH ON SAHARA ISSUE, SUCH AS THROUGH MENTION IN SECY GENERAL'S REPORT AND POSSIBLE SUBSEQUENT DISCUSSION. WHILE ACKNOWLEDGING THE DESIRABILITY OF PURSUING DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS, HALIM FELT THAT NO CONCRETE SUBSTANTIVE MOVEMENT WAS LIKELY.

2. ASKED WHETHER UPCOMING UNGA WOULD THUS BE REQUIRED TO DEAL WITH SAHARA, HALIM FELT THIS WAS LIKELY, BUT HE DID NOT ANTICIPATE A PROLONGED DEBATE. GOM POSITION WAS, OF COURSE, THAT THE SAHARA PROBLEM WAS SETTLED. MOROCCO WAS NOT CONCERNED OVER POSSIBLE ALGERIAN RHETORIC AND WOULD NOT BE ON THE DEFENSIVE IN UN.

3. RE MOROCCAN-LIBYAN RELATIONS (SEE PARA 4 REFTTEL B), HALIM SAID THAT LIBYANS, AS HOSTS TO THE FEBRUARY OAU MEETINGS, HAD BEEN COURTEOUS TO THE MOROCCAN DELEGATES, AS WAS TO BE EXPECTED. THIS DID NOT PORTEND A SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENT IN BILATERAL RELATIONS, HOWEVER, AS QADHAFI WAS AS ERRATIC AS EVER.

4. COMMENT: WHILE MOROCCO WILL NO DOUBT CONTINUE TO TAKE
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PUBLIC POSITION IN FAVOR OF AN OAU SAHARA SUMMIT, THERE IS STILL NO SIGN THAT GOM IS COUNTING EITHER ON SUMMIT'S BEING HELD OR ON DIPLOMATIC PROGRESS IN THAT CHANNEL. HOWEVER, WE QUESTION WHETHER GOM LEADERS WILL ULTIMATELY PREFER TO SEE MATTER AGAIN BEFORE UNGA. HALIM'S BLITHE DISMISSAL OF POSSIBLE GOM PROBLEMS IN THE UNGA MAY BE DUE MORE TO THIS NEWNESS ON THE JOB THAN TO CONSIDERED REFLECTION ON THE PROBLEM.

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